

R E M A R K S

Form PTO-892

EP 1 273 672 was cited in a prior art rejection in item no. 8 at the middle of page 3 of the Office Action.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to cite EP 1 273 672 on a Form PTO-892, so that it will be made of record in the above-identified patent application.

It is noted that related family members of EP 1 273 672 are JP 10-176219, EP 950 723 and USP 6,413,328.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is respectfully requested to return to the undersigned a copy of the IDS Form filed May 28, 2008 to indicate that the publications cited therein were considered and made of record.

Claim Amendments

Claim 2 was amended into independent form by inclusion of features of claim 1.

Claims 9 and 11 were amended to depend on claim 2.

Claim 21 was amended into independent form by inclusion of features of claim 20.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants are pleased to note that claims 2 and 3 were deemed to be allowable (see item no. 17 in the penultimate paragraph on page 5 of the Office Action).

Applicants are also pleased to note that claims 21 to 23 were deemed to be free of any prior art rejections (see item no. 18 in the last paragraph on page 5 of the Office Action).

Rejection Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 12, 21 to 23 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth in item nos. 13 to 16 on pages 4 to 5 of the Office Action.

Claims 12, 26 and 27 were amended in reply to item no. 14 on pages 4 to 5 of the Office Action.

Regarding item no. 15 on page 5 of the Office Action, claim 21 was amended by following the Examiner's suggestions.

Anticipation Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 4, 7 to 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by JP 408081738 for the reasons set forth in items 3 to 6 on pages 2 to 3 of the Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that the 35 USC 102 rejection is moot in view of the present claims.

Withdrawal of the 35 USC 102 rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection Under 35 USC 103

Claims 5, 6, 10 to 12 and 25 to 27 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over JP 408081738 in view of JP 60-16276 or EP 1 273 672 for the reasons set forth in item nos 8 to 11 on pages 3 to 4 of the Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that the 35 USC 103 rejection is moot in view of the present claims.

Withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is requested. Allowance is solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

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Respectfully submitted,



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